

Texas Tech University Faculty Senate
Meeting # 288, May 6, 2009

The Faculty Senate met on Wednesday, May 6, in the Escondido Theatre in the Student Union Building, with President Sandy River presiding.

Senators in attendance: Cox, Harter, Held, Jeter, McComb, Rahnama, Weinlich, Pasewark, Ritchey, Crews, Hendricks, Pratt, Giesselmann, Helm, Lakhani, Mengel, Tomlinson, Blum, Colwell, Lauderdale, Rosen, Soonpaa, River, Gelber, Mann, Santa, CM Smith, Meek, Spurrier, Warner, Wilde.

Senators excused: Anderson, Drager, Hart, Koch, Tacon, Toda, Boal, Oliver, Paschall, Peoples, Spallholz, Williams.

Senators not excused: Farmer, Hamed, Johnson, Wilson, Hill, Rex, Blake, Iyer, Opp, Roeger, Rugeley, Smithey, Wong, Claudet, Fox, Mathis, Sobolewski, Sharp, Skerik, Barnes-Burroughs, Shacklette, Syma.

- I. **Call to Order:** Sandy River, President, at 3:18 pm.
- II. **Recognition of Guests:** University President Guy Bailey, Provost Bob Smith, Provost's Office: Rob Stewart, Valerie Paton
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting # 287, April 8, 2009. The Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

IV. Speaker: Dr. Guy Bailey, University President

President Bailey spoke about what has been transpiring in the current Legislative session, and how that will affect the immediate and long term financial situation at the university. He also discussed strategic considerations for budgeting for the coming year.

Legislative Session: Dr. Bailey announced that Texas will likely not have budget cuts, and that there is the potential for a 5-7% increase in money to the state. Although Bailey sees this as good news, he didn't feel that Texas Tech did as well with the budget as it could have. This was partly because of flat enrollment growth, and the fact that our research funding has not grown at the same rate as that of some other similar institutions. Dr. Bailey stated that the university will most likely have to increase tuition and fees next year—possibly 5% (although 9% is allowed).

Dr. Bailey stated that it looks as though next year's budget will be OK for Tech. The university should be able to manage pay raises for faculty and staff; and we should also be able to some "additional things," such as hiring student support. All of the above information is provisional, since the Legislature is still in session, but the university will have its budget by the end of May.

Long Term: Dr. Bailey mentioned that there are several bills in the legislative process that could help Texas Tech in its goal to become a Tier 1 University. One bill, associated with Senator Zafarini, would allow for the state to "match" money donated to a university for research. Not only would this increase the amount of money the university could potentially get, but it would also serve as a good fund-raising tool. Another bill, associated with Senator Duncan, would supply long-term sustaining revenue for "excellence." This bill would create a second Permanent University Fund, or "PUF" of \$500 million. The standards for getting into the group of universities that would have access to this money will be very high. Dr. Bailey stated that the prospects for these two bills to pass, are very good.

Tuition Bill: A Tuition Bill that links tuition to state appropriations, has passed. This would set limits to the allowable percentage of tuition increase. However, Texas Tech would most likely get an exemption, because our tuition had been frozen. Dr. Bailey mentioned that the State is interested in slowing the rate of tuition and fee increases, since in the past 15 years the cost of university tuition has increased more than that of health care.

Questions: Senator Held asked why foreign students are excluded from the two-million dollar graduate student stipends. Dr. Bailey stated that these students will not be excluded forever. He said that there are three governing ideas behind the structure of the graduate student stipends:

- 1) Restructuring of enrollment: the need to increase the number of grad students to 25%,

- 2) The need to stabilize the RDF, which has been going down,
 - 3) The desire to utilize certain kinds of Defense funding, which requires security clearance.
- Dr. Bailey stated that the requirements for obtaining the student stipends may change over time.

Strategic Considerations: Dr. Bailey went over a document with the Faculty Senate, in which he expanded on three themes, which he sees as strategic considerations for FYLO Budget Process. These are outlined below:

1) Revenue Growth

- a) Focusing enrollment growth in ways that maximize formula funding,
- b) Leveraging existing assets to create new revenue streams
- c) Developing a budget allocation process that promotes enrollment and revenue growth.

2) Enrollment Growth

- a) Restructuring our enrollment
- b) Recruiting the best students
- c) Building additional capacity
- d) Building a pipeline of students

3) Research Growth

- a) Recruiting additional Doctoral students to run research labs
- b) Recruiting Internationally-prominent researchers
- c) Expanding strategic partnerships in areas that will lead to additional external funding

Dr. Bailey stated that the above document is a draft that will soon be posted on the website. He hopes that faculty will look it over and provide input to help shape its final form.

V. Old Business: Study Committee C (Meek)

Study Committee C has been looking into the Student Course Evaluations—particularly in such areas as: the ramifications of evaluations, how they are used to evaluate faculty, and how effective they are. Study Committee C is planning to do some research this summer, surveying other universities to discover how faculty evaluations are dealt with in other institutions. Senator Meek asked that any Senators who are interested in participating in this process contact him.

Status and Welfare Committee: (Rosen)

The Status and Welfare Committee has been looking into the subject of Merit pay. They have the various Colleges for the criteria upon which Merit pay is based. Some Colleges have responded, but not all. They have put together an interim report that is currently circulating in Committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on OP 32.32: (Held)

The Committee presented their Recommendation for revisions to OP 32.32: Performance Evaluations of Faculty. (This Recommendation was circulated to Senators via email). The Recommendation was voted on, and passed.

Revenue Enhancement and Allocation Task Force: (River)

The Task Force has a draft of a Planning Document in the works, which will be sent to Dr. Bailey by the end of May.

VI. New Business:

Entering Grades in Banner: (Meek)

Senator Drager feels that entering grades into the new Banner system could be more faculty-friendly. He spoke to the people who are working on the system, and reports that they would be most appreciative for faculty support and advice in their redesign of the website over the summer. Senators interested in working on this committee should contact Senator Meek. President River suggested that any Senators with specific suggestions/concerns about the grading process also send these concerns to Senator Meek.

Graduate Admissions: (Jeter)

Senator Jeter brought up the subject of current problems with Graduate Admissions at the Grad School: His department has lost strong applicants, because of slow response. He asked, How can we ramp up good admissions, if the Grad School is understaffed and cannot handle the current load?

Provost Smith replied that the Provost's Office is aware of several elements affecting the Graduate admissions process: a) Graduate admissions is up, this year; b) the Banner system will be problematic, until the university community becomes more used to it; c) the university needs to become less centralized in its budget structure. Provost Smith recommended that faculty with specific concerns about Graduate Admissions take these concerns directly to Dr. Hartmeister at the Graduate School.

Resolution: (Held)

Senator Held presented a Resolution regarding Selection Procedures for Commencement Speakers. It read: "Whereas dignitaries who speak at TTU graduation ceremonies should be of unimpeachable high moral character, and Whereas Mr. Karl Rove has been invited to speak at the graduation ceremonies of the TTU Law School even though he has been held in contempt of Congress, Therefore be it resolved that TTU should reevaluate its policies for vetting potential speakers to prevent such ethically questionable invitations in the future." The Resolution was moved by Senator Jeter and seconded by Senator Warner. After discussion, Senator Held withdrew his Motion. The Faculty Senate decided that we would like to have more information about how Commencement speakers are chosen.

VII. Liaison Reports

Academic Council: (Mengel) VP Mengel sent out the Academic Council report to the Faculty Senate earlier in an email.

Library: (Weinlich) Funding: Senator Weinlich reported that the \$2 Library fee that was utilized to pay the utilities has been reinstated, plus a second \$2 fee will be added to the amount. In 2011 HEAF money will be re-allocated, so we need to be vigilant to see that the library stays supported. (The library is currently operating in the "red.")

Remote Storage: Some library materials will soon be moved to remote storage, which will make room in the library for other items/uses. At present, the library staff is deciding what to move—currently, it is hard copies of periodicals which are also available on line. President River recommends that Senators stay in contact with their library liaisons, to make sure that needed materials are not removed from ease of access. Senator Weinlich added that the library is making the effort to get word out about their electronic resources. The Library Committee has put together a list of recommendations for the Provost. They would like more information on the reallocation of the HEAF funds. They also wanted to go on the record as supporting the students, and wanting any changes to the library be in the best interests of the students.

VIII. Announcements: (River)

- President River announced that the Strategic Enrollment Council has had its first meeting. The charge to the Committee refers to the goal of an enrollment of 40,000 students by the year 2020. An enrollment management consulting firm has been hired.
- Senator Held thanked Senator Blum for trying to save the post office in the Student Union Building.
- President River thanked VP Mengel, Secretary Mann and Parliamentarian Agnello (not present) for their service to the Faculty Senate during the 2008-2009 school year.

IX. The gavel was passed from President River to president-elect Meek.

X. Adjournment: The 288th meeting of the Faculty Senate was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

